

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/783,446

Examiner

Richard M. Lorence

Applicant(s)

FRIEDRICH ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on November 3, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The amendment filed on November 3, 2005 has been entered. The specification and claims 1, 6-8 and 11 have been amended, and claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 1-8 and 10-12 remain pending.

Receipt is acknowledged of the translation of the priority document filed on November 3, 2005.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The filing of the translation of the priority document is effective to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 102(a) based upon DE 20302735 U1.

None of the prior art of record shows or suggests a friction clutch including a housing, a plurality of first friction disks, a hub, and a plurality of second friction disks arranged together in the manner set forth in claim 1, and particularly wherein the hub has a plurality of radially outward-projecting connection arms and the second friction disks define engagement openings therein which are closed on radial inner sides thereof, wherein the connection arms engage the engagement openings of said second friction disks such that said second friction disks are fixed with respect to rotation and axially movable relative to said hub.

Nor does the prior art of record show or suggest a clutch disk arrangement including a hub and a plurality of friction disks arranged together in the manner set forth

in claim 6 , and particularly wherein the hub has a plurality of radially outward-projecting connection arms and the friction disks define engagement openings therein which are closed on radial inner sides thereof, wherein the connection arms engage the engagement openings of said second friction disks such that said second friction disks are fixed with respect to rotation and axially movable relative to said hub.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-9 of the response filed November 3, 2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosumi et al. '269 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 USC 102(b) has been withdrawn.

None does the prior art of record shows or suggests a hub including a ring-shaped body area and a plurality of rotational connection arms as set forth in claim 7, wherein the connection arms comprise axially extending projections on the axial sides thereof, and further wherein the ring-shaped body area and radially inner ends of the rotational connection arms define recesses on both axial sides of the hub, and particularly wherein radially inward facing ends of the axially extending projections define radially outer sides of the recesses whereby the axially extending projections are arranged radially outside of the recesses.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (571) 272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Richard M. Lorence
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

Lorence/rml